

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown in the complete claim set for this application. This listing of claims will replace all prior claims in the application:

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) A method for notifying a customer of a message available for delivery via a client vehicle communication unit (VCU) installed in a vehicle of the customer, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing a connection between a server and the client VCU;

sending a query to the client VCU from the server for an indication of whether the customer is available in the vehicle for receiving the message;

sending a message to the client VCU for delivery to the customer if the server receives the indication that the customer is available; and

if the server does not receive the indication that the customer is available for receiving the message, then performing any one or more of the following:

i) sending a failed delivery message to the client VCU,

ii) sending the message to the client for storage on the client VCU, or

iii) retrying delivery of the message at a later time after a time interval.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the indication of whether the customer is available in the vehicle for receiving the message is an ignition status.

25. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the message is one of the group consisting of a voice message, a facsimile (FAX), an E-mail message, and a transfer of data.

26. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of sending a message to the client VCU for delivery to the customer further comprises annunciating the type of communication available for delivery.

27. **(New)** The method of claim 23, wherein the step of sending a message to the client VCU for delivery to the customer occurs after the vehicle ignition is turned on if the indication that the customer is available is not received by the server.

28. **(New)** The method of claim 23, further comprising the steps of periodically sending a query to the client VCU from the server if the server fails to receive the indication that the customer is available in response to previous queries.

29. **(New)** The method of claim 23, wherein sending a message to the client VCU for delivery to the customer includes broadcasting an audible message to the customer inside the vehicle.

30. **(New)** The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of storing a message for later annunciation to the customer on the client VCU upon the server acquiring an IGNITION OFF status.

31. **(New)** The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of sending a code to the client VCU from the server representative of the message for later annunciation.

32. **(New)** A method for delivering a message for a customer from a server to a client vehicle communication unit (VCU) installed in a vehicle of the customer, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing a connection between a server and the client VCU;

sending a query to the client VCU from the server for an ignition status as an indication of whether the customer is available in the vehicle for receiving the message;

re-sending the query to the client VCU from the server for an ignition status if no ignition status is returned from the client VCU to the server; and

annunciating to the customer that a message is available for delivery if the server receives an ignition status indicating that the customer is available.

33. **(New)** The method of claim 32, wherein the step of announcing to the customer that a message is available for delivery further comprises announcing the type of communication available for delivery.
34. **(New)** The method of claim 32, wherein the step of announcing to the customer that a message is available for delivery occurs after the vehicle ignition is turned on if no ignition status indicating that the customer is available is received by the server.
35. **(New)** The method of claim 32, wherein announcing the communication includes broadcasting an audible message to the customer inside the vehicle.
36. **(New)** The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of sending an IGNITION ON message to the server from the client VCU when the ignition mode changes from an off mode another mode.
37. **(New)** The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of storing a message for later announcement to the customer on the client VCU upon the server acquiring an IGNITION OFF status.
38. **(New)** The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of sending a code to the client from the server representative of the message for later announcement.
39. **(New)** The method of claim 32, wherein the customer initiates delivery of the message with a verbal command.
40. **(New)** The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of delaying delivery of the message to client VCU upon acquiring an IGNITION OFF status.
41. **(New)** The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of storing the message at the server upon acquiring an IGNITION OFF status.

42. **(New)** A method for notifying a customer of a message available for delivery via a client vehicle communication unit (VCU) installed in a vehicle of the customer, the method comprising the steps of:

attempting to establish a connection between a server and the client VCU;

if the connection was not established, then performing any one or more of the following:

i) retrying to establish a connection between the server and the client VCU, or

ii) storing a failed delivery message;

if the connection between the server and the client VCU is established, then sending a query to the client VCU from the server for an ignition status as an indication of whether the customer is available in the vehicle for receiving the message; and

if the server receives an ignition status indicating that the customer is available, then sending a message to the client VCU for delivery to the customer.

43. **(New)** The method of claim 42, wherein the step of sending a message to the client VCU for delivery to the customer further comprises sending ring tones to the client VCU.

44. **(New)** The method of claim 42, wherein the step of sending a message to the client VCU for delivery to the customer further comprises the customer initiating communication of the message to the customer.